

pie, students were prominent in effecting the various boycotts against Japan and Great Britain. The Student Movement was particularly strong in middle (secondary) schools. The youths of that immature age were susceptible to mob psychology and were easily swayed by older leaders, often from the outside, who found it to their advantage to organize them. Students were engrossed in the campaign of the Kuomintang in 1926 and 1927, and, as is the nature of impetuous youth, gravitated toward the left. Many became zealous propagandists of Communism. When, in 1927, the anti-Communist reaction set in, numbers were executed for their radicalism. The authorities now frowned on student activities, admonishing the youth to concentrate on their books. For a time the Student Movement subsided. In 1931 it had an active part in agitating for direct action against Japan and in bringing about a change of government in Nanking. In "free" China in the 1930's and 1940's it largely ceased. The Kuomintang was unfriendly and, indeed, organized a "Youth Corps" to reenforce its own power. Many students were so pressed by the physical struggle for existence that they were apathetic. In Communist China youth was even more strongly indoctrinated with the ideals of the dominant party.

Inefficiency there was in much of the new education, and energy was often diverted from intellectual pursuits to political agitation. Yet there was activity in scholarship. Western and Chinese philosophers were examined, some having their advocates and all being freely criticized. Ancient Chinese thinkers, such as Mo Ti, long looked at askance by the orthodox, were

enthusiastically re-
discovered. Reprints were issued of many books
proscribed by
the Ch'ing. China's history came in for fearless
restudy. Both
the critical procedure developed in the Ch'ing
dynasty by the
scholars connected with the movement known as
the Han Learning
and the methods of Western historians
were applied to
the records of China's past—to the discrediting
of much that
had been currently accepted, particularly
concerning the pre-
Confucian period.

Books multiplied, and new publishing houses
arose as their
purveyors. One company sold in one year \$800,000
worth (Chi-
nese currency) of books in Western languages.
Translations of
hundreds of Western works were printed.
Experiments were made